

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

United States Patent and Trademark
Office
(Box PCT)
Crystal Plaza 2
Washington, DC 20231
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day/month/year)

20 November 1997 (20.11.97)

International application No.

PCT/US97/06484

Applicant's or agent's file reference

6065/VJ

International filing date (day/month/year)

16 April 1997 (16.04.97)

Priority date (day/month/year)

17 April 1996 (17.04.96)

Applicant

BOHLEN, David, Scott et al

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:



in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:

29 October 1997 (29.10.97)



in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

2. The election



was



was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

Authorized officer

R. Raissi

Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

REC'D	09 FEB 1998
WIPO	PCT

Applicant's or agent's file reference 6065/VJ	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US97/06484	International filing date (day/month/year) 16/04/1997	Priority date (day/month/year) 17/04/1996
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC C11D11/00		
Applicant THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY et al.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.


2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

- ☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☒ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 29/10/1997	Date of completion of this report 05.02.98
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. (+49-89) 2399-0, Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: (+49-89) 2399-4465	Authorized officer Pentek, E Telephone No. (+49-89) 2399-8489



INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/US97/06484

I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of (*substitute sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.*):

Description, pages:

1-19 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-10 as originally filed

2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

☐ the description, pages:

☐ the claims, Nos.:

☐ the drawings, sheets:

3. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	1-10
	No:	Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	1-10
	No:	Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-10
	No:	Claims	

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/US97/06484

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/US97/06484

1. None of the document cited in the Search Report discloses a process for preparing detergent agglomerates which comprises the steps of providing a viscoelastic surfactant paste containing 70% to 95% of a deterative surfactant and regulating the temperature of the surfactant paste within a range from 50°C to 80°C.
Therefore, the present invention as defined in claims 1 to 10 is considered to meet the requirement of novelty (Article 33(2) PCT).
- 2.1. Document WO 95/06109, which seems to represent the most relevant document (cited in the Search Report) for the assessment of inventive step, relates to a process for producing high density, free flowing detergent agglomerates having high levels of surfactant and a density of at least 650 g/l, in which the high density agglomerates are produced from a viscous surfactant paste comprising from 70% to 95% of a deterative surfactant and the balance water.
- 2.2. In view of the teaching of D1, the problem addressed by the present invention is to provide a process for preparing detergent agglomerates such as disclosed in D1, wherein the surfactant paste remains stable, pumpable and transportable over an extended period of time (at least 48 hours) so as to facilitate multilocation, large-scale manufacture of modern compact detergent products. This has been obtained by selecting a specific pH range (at least 10) and temperature range (from 50°C to 80°C) for the surfactant paste.
Therefore, the claimed subject-matter is also considered to involve an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT).
3. Vague terms such as "about", "or the like" and "and the like" and wording such as "incorporated herein by reference" should have been deleted from the whole description.
4. The vague and imprecise statement in the description on page 19, last paragraph implies that the subject-matter for which protection is sought may be different to that defined by the claims, thereby resulting in lack of clarity (Article 6 PCT) when used to interpret them (see also the PCT Guidelines, PCT/GL/3 III, 4.3a).

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/US 97/06484

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 6 C11D11/00 C11D17/06 C11D1/37 C11D3/12

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 C11D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A,P	WO 96 27655 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE) 12 September 1996 see claims 1-4 see page 2, last paragraph - page 3, paragraph 2 ---	1,4,6
A	WO 95 06109 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE) 2 March 1995 see claims 1,2; example 1 ---	1,4
A	EP 0 438 320 A (UNILEVER PLC ;UNILEVER NV (NL)) 24 July 1991 see page 5, line 15 - line 29 see page 4, line 47 - line 50 see claims 1,5; example 1 -----	1

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

9 July 1997

Date of mailing of the international search report

22.07.97

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Loiselet-Taisne, S

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 97/06484

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9627655 A	12-09-96	US 5574005 A	12-11-96
WO 9506109 A	02-03-95	US 5366652 A	22-11-94
		US 5486303 A	23-01-96
		CA 2169092 A	02-03-95
		CN 1132526 A	02-10-96
		EP 0715652 A	12-06-96
		JP 9501970 T	25-02-97
EP 0438320 A	24-07-91	AU 640979 B	09-09-93
		AU 6938991 A	25-07-91
		CA 2034244 A	20-07-91
		IN 171897 A	30-01-93
		JP 4363398 A	16-12-92
		KR 9600207 B	03-01-96

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 6065/VJ	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/US 97/06484	International filing date (day/month/year) 16/04/1997	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 17/04/1996
Applicant THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY et al.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 2 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. ☐ Certain claims were found unsearchable (see Box I).
2. ☐ Unity of invention is lacking (see Box II).
3. ☐ The international application contains disclosure of a nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing and the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing
 - ☐ filed with the international application.
 - ☐ furnished by the applicant separately from the international application,
 - ☐ but not accompanied by a statement to the effect that it did not include matter going beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed.
 - ☐ Transcribed by this Authority
4. With regard to the title, ☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
 - ☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:
5. With regard to the abstract,
 - ☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
 - ☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this International Search Report, submit comments to this Authority.
6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is:
 - Figure No. ☐ as suggested by the applicant. ☐ None of the figures.
 - ☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.
 - ☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 97/06484

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☐

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- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

9 July 1997

Date of mailing of the international search report

22 07 97

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 97/06484

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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		AU 6938991 A	25-07-91
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		KR 9600207 B	03-01-96